

## NEMSN Sustainability Profile: Portland, ME

### Community Profile<sup>1</sup>

<i>Area (sq. Miles):</i>	21.5
<i>Population:</i>	66,872
<i>Population Density:</i>	3,103.8
<i>Households:</i>	30,427
<i>Median Age:</i>	40.3
<i>Median Household Income:</i>	\$52,139
<i>Poverty Rate:</i>	15%

### City Department:

*Title:* City of Portland Sustainability Office

*Staff:* Sustainability Coordinator, Troy Moon

*Responsibilities:* Collaborate with all city departments to increase the efficiency of City operations and seek innovative approaches to improve municipal services.

*Programs/Policies:* Support any initiatives designed to make Portland a sustainable and environmentally friendly community. (e.g. Resiliency Planning, Solar Power).

### Interview:

**What have been your biggest successes in the past 2-3 years?**

**Given the range of your priorities, which do you consider to be your top priorities?**

**Please explain why you have chosen these priorities?**

**How important are the metrics to identifying progress in the programs and policies?**  
Report to CDP.

**What resources are needed to complete your strategies and priorities? Are they currently available to you? If not, do you know where/how to obtain them?**

**How has the local community promoted its sustainability efforts to members in the community?**

**What are your top 3 barriers that you consider to be beyond the control of the municipality, which have limited your ability to implement sustainability initiatives?**

## Sustainable Profile<sup>2</sup>

### *Overview*

1. Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling
2. Food & Agriculture
3. Transportation
4. Storm Water
5. Energy
6. Development
7. Green House Gas Reduction
8. Climate Preparedness
9. Equity & Economics
10. Community Engagement

### Sustainable Plans

	Targets/Goals	Published Plan	Metrics/Reporting
Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling	✓	✓	✓
Food & Agriculture			
Transportation			
Storm Water	✓	✓	✓
Energy	✓	✓	
Development			
GHG Reduction	✓	✓	
Climate Preparedness			
Equity & Economics			
Community Engagement			
Totals	4	4	2

*Data Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute: Program Implementation Survey 2017*

### Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

#### *Top Priorities*

- Continue to reduce the City's waste by further establishing recycling programs.

#### *Strategies*

- Use City purchasing to support local, green and recycled products.
- Adopt a City policy of pollution prevention as a guiding principle in City decision-making.
- Adopt a citywide net zero waste goal for solid and hazardous waste.

### Food & Agriculture

#### *Top Priorities*

- 

#### *Strategies*

- 

### Transportation

### *Top Priorities*

- Update policies guiding use of city owned vehicles- target reduction.
- Purchase and use route optimization software.
- Enforce Anti-Idling Regulations.
- Transportation demand management for employee commuting.

### *Strategies*

- Review policies regarding the use of City owned vehicles and amend them to minimize the use of fuel.
- City operations that regularly use vehicles should develop plans and policies for shared tips, car-pooling and trip avoidance.

## Storm Water

### *Top Priorities*

- Upgrade the pumps and pump station buildings.

### *Strategies*

- Replace existing pumps with energy efficient variable flow drive technology.

## Energy

### *Top Priorities*

- Commission comprehensive energy audits for all cities and school department buildings.
- Explore Performance Contracting to Act on Recommendations from Energy Audits.
- Upgrade Lighting, HVAC and water systems in existing buildings.
- Adopt a comprehensive energy policy for city.
- Adopt green building standards for municipal buildings.
- Purchase renewable energy.
- Explore small-scale energy generation project.
- Retrofit mercury streetlamps to more efficient model.

### *Strategies*

- Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions.
- Use performance based contracting with Energy Service Companies to fund building upgrades.
- Adopt proven, verifiable performance standards to ensure that our buildings are designed and built to use resources efficiently.
- Include a certain percentage of green power in its energy portfolio.
- Explore cost effective small-scale energy generation demonstration projects on City facilities.
- Create new building codes to focus on energy conservation.
- Undertake an on-site renewable energy generation demonstration project.
- Actively promote the use of alternative sources of energy supply.
- Prioritize City energy conservation efforts.

## Development

### *Top Priorities*

- 

### *Strategies*

- Require all city funded new construction projects receive LEED certification.
- Create new building codes to focus on energy conservation.
- Undertake an on-site renewable energy generation demonstration project.
- Actively promote the use of alternative sources of energy supply.
- Prioritize City energy conservation efforts.

## Green House Gas Reduction

### *Top Priorities*

- Reduce the City's CO2 emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020.
- Update City's emissions inventory.

### *Strategies*

- Commit to updating the emissions inventory every five years at a minimum.

## Climate Preparedness

### *Top Priorities*

- 

### *Strategies*

- 

## Equity & Economics

### *Top Priorities*

- Address the basic needs of all members of the community.

### *Strategies*

- Attend to problems associated with mental illness, homelessness, drug addiction, education and vocational deficiencies and racism.
- In order to be a sustainable community Portland must provide services to break patterns of social injustice, systemic poverty and disempowerment of minorities.

## Community Engagement:

### *Top Priorities*

- Create a "Green Team" made up of representatives from all departments to assist with the implementation and adoption of Action Plan items.
- Develop a Behavior Change Program for Employees.
- Develop an Environmental Preferable Procurement Policy.
- Participate in Educational and Informational Partnerships and Events.

### *Strategies*

- The team should take primary responsibility for several recommended action items including peer education and behavior modification efforts and coordination with environmental groups outside the City.
- The City should make conscious efforts to reduce the amount of energy they consume during the course of their work.
- Participate in a climate change initiatives including Governor’s Carbon Challenge, Cities for Climate Protection and partner with Clean Air Cool Planet.
- Ensure that City purchasing policies include green standards such as mandate for recycled content and a local vendor/provider preference.

### Initiative Implementation

	Not Yet Considered	Planning	In Progress	Fully Implemented
Curbside Composting		✓		
Zero Waste Policy			✓	
Community Gardens				
Urban Agriculture & Local Food Programs			✓	
Complete Streets			✓	
Bike Share/ Rail Trail				
Green Storm Water Infrastructure Upgrades		✓	✓	
Commercial/Municipal Building Upgrades				
Municipal Energy Aggregation	✓			
Municipal Solar Installations			✓	
Community Solar Installations			✓	
LED Conversions: Streetlight			✓	
LED Conversion: Municipal Buildings		✓		
Mixed-Use Development			✓	
Urban Infill			✓	
Sustainable Housing for Low-Income Families			✓	
Aiding Local Business With Sustainable Programs		✓		
Updated Website with Events/Reports			✓	
Energy Reporting			✓	
Disclosure Ordinance			✓	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	

*Data Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute: Program Implementation Survey 2017*

#### Sources:

- 1.) “Census Profile: Portland, ME.” *Census Reporter*. N.p., n.d. Web 3 April. 2017
- 2.) “Sustainable Portland” *City of Portland, Maine*. November 7, 2007.  
<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3386>